Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Annual Report
2006 - 2007

Manitoba

2008-04162/

MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR
COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Room 344
Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8
CANADA

His Honour the Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Room 235, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I have the privilege to present for your information the Annual Report of the Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Oscar Lathlin
Minister

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of Aborginal and Northern Affairs

Room 350
Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8
CANADA

Honourable Oscar Lathlin
Minister
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Room 344, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I have the honour and privilege of presenting the Annual Report of the Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. I am pleased to report that the department continues to make significant progress on many policy and program initiatives benefiting the Aboriginal and northern communities.

The department made progress in the ongoing efforts to resolve provincial obligations through the negotiation and implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement and other agreements related to land and northern hydro-electric development.

The department has built a partnership with the departments of Healthy Child Manitoba, Culture Heritage and Tourism, Education and Conservation. The department has also built a partnership with the Lifesaving Society – Manitoba Division to deliver a water safety education program across northern Manitoba. The program was expanded in 2006. The program visited 15 communities with 370 participants in Swim to Survive. Eighty seven students graduated from the Boat Operator Accredited Training and 124 candidates in Emergency First Aid/CPR received certification.

The department has initiated a interdepartmental working groups to further develop implementation plans for Manitoba's Closing the Gap Strategy to address the gap in socio-economic well-being between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Manitoba. This work builds on the commitments made at the First Ministers Meeting (FMM) on Aboriginal Issues in November 2005 and it entails significant interdepartmental coordination and work with other levels of government, Aboriginal organizations and the corporate sector.

I am pleased to report that interest has continued to grow in the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative. In 2006/07, the three regional partners, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, Bayline Regional Roundtable, and Northern Association of Community Councils, of the gardening component called "Grow North" reported 273 vegetable gardens in 18 northern communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and support of the many innovative initiatives to achieve an improved quality of life that includes enhancement of the education, health, housing, economic development and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and northern Manitobans.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Bostrom
Deputy Minister

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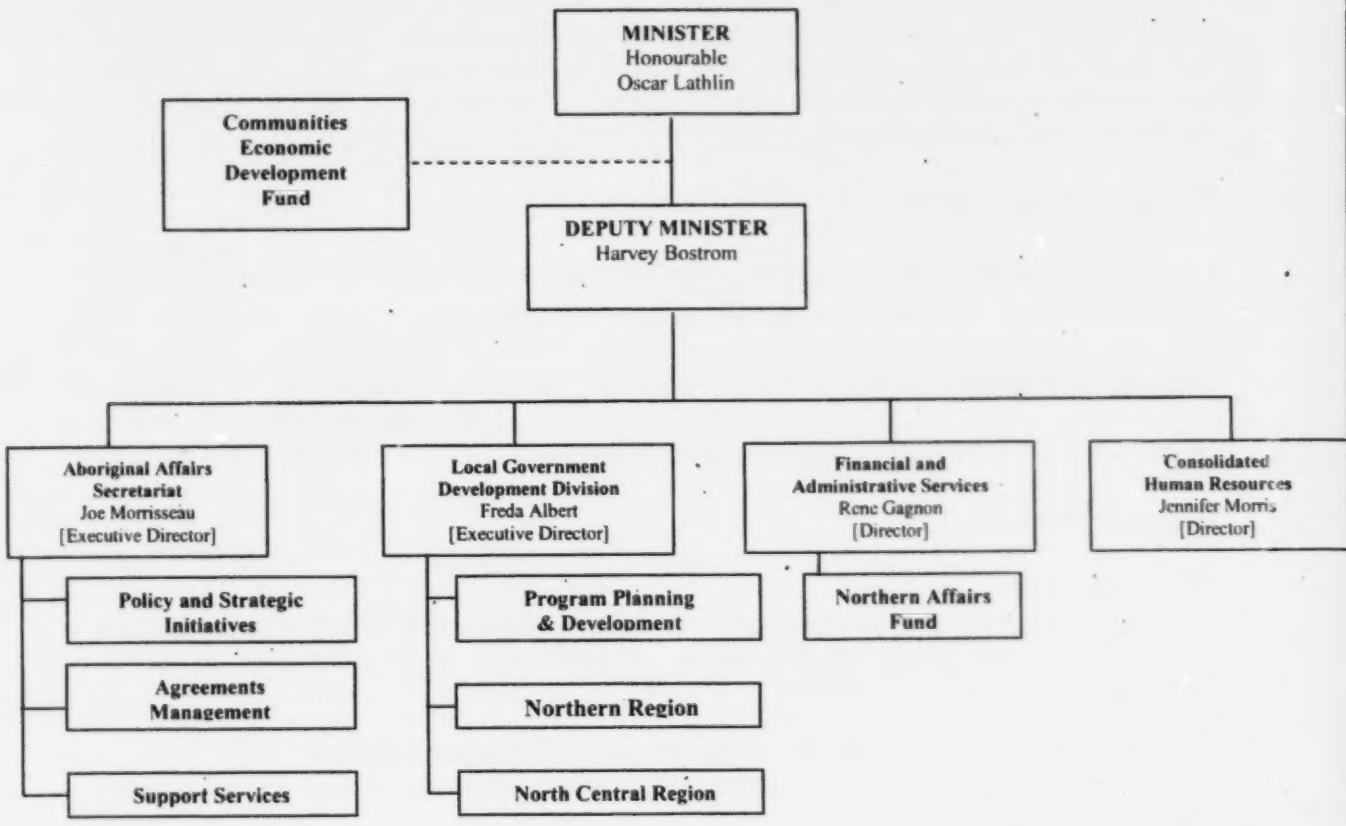
Organization Chart Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs as of March 31, 2007



Introduction

Report Structure

This Annual Report is organized in accordance with the departmental appropriation structure which reflects the Department's authorized votes approved by the Legislative Assembly. The Report includes information at the Main and Sub-Appropriation levels relating to the Department's objectives, actual results achieved, financial performance and variances and provides a five-year historical table of departmental expenditures and staffing. Expenditures and revenue variance explanations previously contained in the Public Accounts of Manitoba are now provided in the Annual Report.

Departmental Vision

An improved quality of life and opportunities for Manitoba's Aboriginal and northern people.

Departmental Mission

Better services, opportunities and results for Manitoba's Aboriginal and northern people.

Departmental Goals

Closing the Gap
Closing the gap between Aboriginal and northern residents and other Manitobans in the quality of life, specifically in the areas of education, health, housing, economic opportunities and employment.

Meeting Constitutional Obligations and Provincial Responsibilities
To fulfill Constitutional obligations and other provincial responsibilities to Aboriginal and northern communities.

Community Development
Healthy, safe and successful northern communities.

Self-Determination
Autonomous, accountable and sustainable Aboriginal and northern communities.

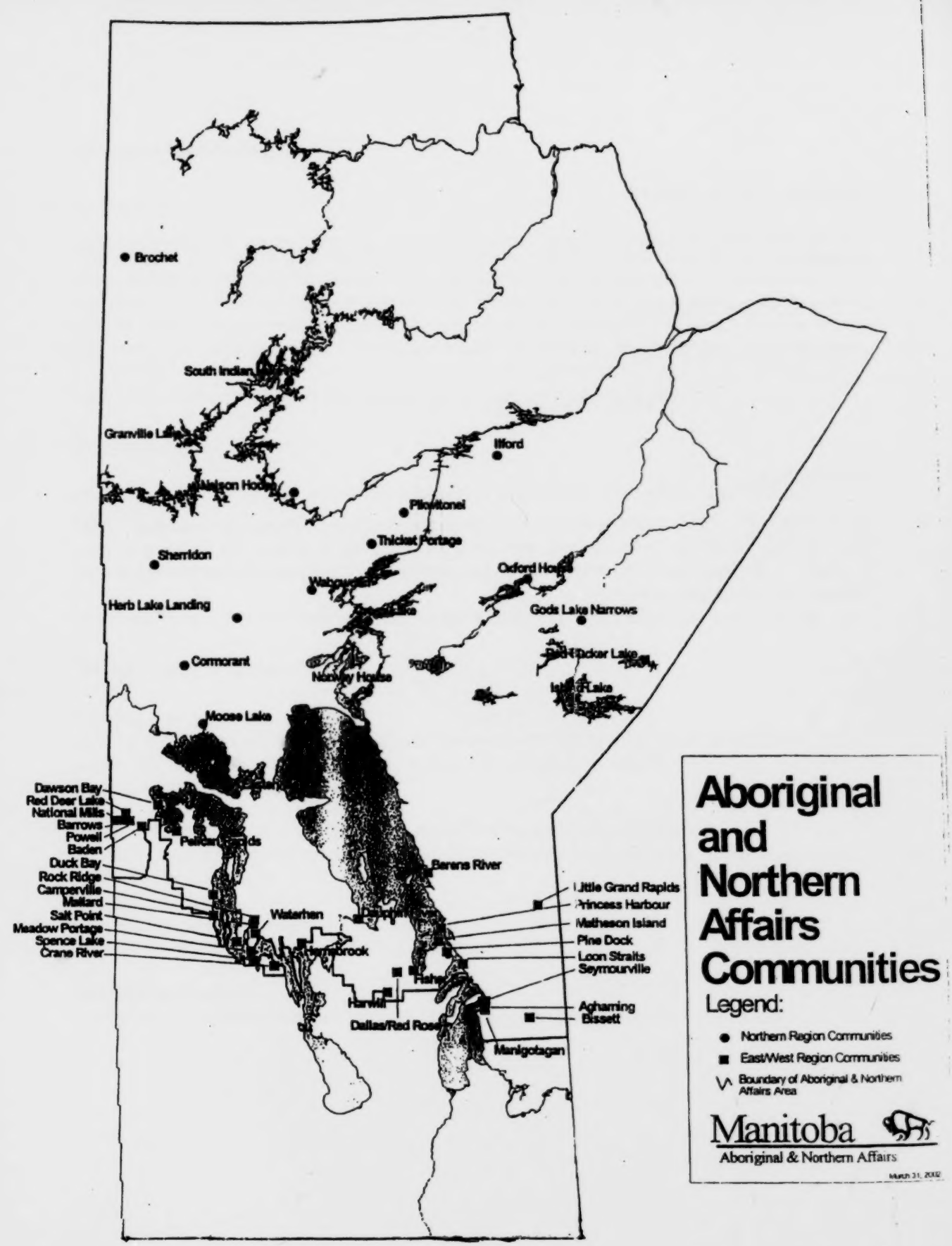
Legislation Administered

The Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs is responsible for the following legislation:

- *The Northern Affairs Act*
- *The Planning Act, (Part 9)*
- *The Communities Economic Development Fund Act*

Jurisdiction

As at March 31, 2007, there were 50 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities. The map on the following page shows the area included in northern Manitoba and the location of all designated Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities over which the Minster has municipal authority.


Brochet
South Indian Lake
Granville Lake
Ilford
Nelson House
Pikwitonei
Thicket Portage
Sherridon
Oxford House
Wabowden
Herb Lake Landing
Gods Lake Narrows
Cormorant
Norway House
Moose Lake
Dawson Bay
Red Deer Lake
National Mills
Barrows
Powell
Baden
Duck Bay
Rock Ridge
Camperville
Mallard
Salt Point
Meadow Portage
Spence Lake
Crane River
Pelican Rapids
Waterhen
Barens River
Little Grand Rapids
Princess Harbour
Matheson Island
Pine Dock
Loon Straits
Seymourville
Agharning
Bissett
Manigotagan
Dallas/Red Rose
Harwill
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Communities
Legend:
Northern Region Communities
East/West Region Communities
Boundary of Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Area
Manitoba
Aboriginal & Northern Affairs
March 31, 2002

Executive Support

Executive Support includes the offices of the Minister and the Deputy Minister and the Northern Regional Cabinet Offices located in Thompson and The Pas.

The Minister's Office provides leadership and policy direction for the department.

The Deputy Minister's Office provides support to the Minister by providing information and advice. The office also provides executive leadership and operational direction towards the implementation of departmental programs. The Deputy Minister is the Chairperson of the Departmental Executive Committee.

The Northern Regional Cabinet Offices provide citizens in northern Manitoba with convenient access to government by providing access to members of Cabinet and by providing information regarding government programs and the appropriate provincial staff contacts for those programs.

The department supports government wide initiatives such as the Northern Development Strategy and the Northern Employment initiative which is a long-term plan to develop the human and natural resources of the North. Its goal is to create opportunities for social and economic changes that benefit all northerners. At the heart of the strategy is the belief that the priorities, strengths and experiences of northerners must guide northern development.

Various divisions of the department are involved in Aboriginal specific programming and ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal communities and organizations in Manitoba regarding the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry recommendations.

19.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Minister's Salary	30.3	1.00	30.4	(.1)	
Total Expenditures	**30.3**	**1.00**	**30.4**	**(.1)**	

19.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	805.5	14.00	806.0	(.5)	
Other Expenditures	273.1		276.1	(3.0)	
Total Expenditures	**1,078.6**	**14.00**	**1,082.1**	**(3.5)**	

Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Operations

Financial and Administrative Services

Rene Gagnon - Director

Financial and Administrative Services is located in Thompson. The branch provides financial comptrollership, fiscal management, financial advice and administrative support services to the department. The human resource function for the department is included in this branch (see Consolidated Human Resource Unit Section for details on the departmental human resource function).

The Director of Financial and Administrative Services also fulfills the position of Access Coordinator for *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Personal Health Information Act* as well as provides French Language Services for the department required by *The French Language Services Act*.

The Objectives of Financial and Administrative Services are:

- To provide fiscal management/comptrollership to the department as delegated by government statutes/regulations and policies.
- To provide financial advice and support services to assist the departmental divisions in the achievement of their goals and objectives.
- To ensure that all departmental financial activities adhere to government regulations, policy, and guidelines including writing/amending departmental financial policies so that they are consistent with those of the government.
- To provide financial analysis of all departmental programs to departmental managers.
- To prepare the departmental estimates.
- To prepare the department's annual report and quarterly cashflow projections including variance explanations.
- To process Freedom of Information requests within specified deadlines.

Results:

- All financial transactions were monitored for compliance with government and departmental rules and regulations. Non-complying transactions were rejected. The Provincial Auditor noted no incidents of departmental non-compliance.

- All support services were provided within established service standards.

- Advice provided resulted in:
  - the allocation of financial resources so that the maximum benefit was obtained,
  - acquiring goods and services in an economical, efficient and effective manner.

- Policies and procedures were reviewed and amended on a priority basis.

- Departmental estimates were prepared in compliance with Treasury Board guidelines.

Sustainable Development Report

The department is particularly interested in the increased participation of Aboriginal people and suppliers in this initiative. The key benefit anticipated through these initiatives are:

- Stimulation of Aboriginal business development;
- Long term viability of Aboriginal businesses;
- Facilitation of enhanced Aboriginal business capacity;
- Creation of new employment opportunities; and
- Enhancement of the economic self-sufficiency of communities.

Aboriginal and Northern Affairs continues to strive to achieve the targets set out in the government wide initiative.

19.2(a) Financial and Administrative Services Division

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	$	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	388.2	6.00	368.7	19.5	
Other Expenditures	108.2		113.9	(5.7)	
Total Expenditures	**496.4**	**6.00**	**482.6**	**13.8**	

Consolidated Human Resources Unit

The Human Resource Services function for the Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation is consolidated into one unit. The unit provides leadership and support in human resource management and pay and benefit services for the two departments under one Director reporting to the respective departmental Deputy Ministers. The Consolidated Human Resource Unit provides service out of two centers. One center is located in Winnipeg with a full time Human Resource Consultant providing service to the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat and Local Government Development's Winnipeg office. The unit in Thompson offers the same full range of human resource management to the Local Government Development offices in Thompson and Dauphin, as well as the Finance and Administration division. The office located in Thompson also provides full pay and benefit services to all Aboriginal and Northern Affairs staff. The northern unit consists of one Human Resource Consultant, one Human Resource Assistant and two Pay and Benefits Administrators. This unit reports to the Director of the Consolidated Human Resource Unit and is the only Consolidated Human Resource Unit with services in the North.

The services provided include human resource planning and management, recruitment and staffing, compensation and benefits, job classification, labour and employee relations, training and development, performance management and employment equity.

The unit operates under delegated staffing and classification agreements with the Civil Service Commission whereby all Human Resource staff in the unit have delegated authority for the two departments.

Accomplishments Specific to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

- Staffing activity included twenty permanent and term staffing actions. There are currently no selection decisions being appealed.
- On-going provision of payroll and benefit administration out of Thompson.
- Full working level of two Human Resource Consultants to provide human resource assistance, advice and guidance to all department staff and management.
- Active participation in Access programs at Keewatin Community College.
- Employment equity is factored into all staffing actions within the department. The department's Employment Equity strategy includes a statement in all recruitment ads that Aboriginal candidates will be given preference.

- The Deputy Minister sent a memorandum to all staff outlining his support commitment to the creation of a diverse workplace and to the principles of Employment Equity.
- All staff have participated in the department-specific Creating an Inclusive and Respectful Workplace training.
- Job descriptions, vacancy advertisements, and all other recruitment documentation are being reviewed for consistency, clarity and ensure that they are barrier free.
- Ongoing classification services to the department. There were no classification decisions appealed.
- Provision of guidance and advice to management on labour relations, including appropriate action and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage.
- Provision of guidance and support to management in organizational review and structural design matters.

A Renewal Strategy Action Plan was implemented for fiscal year 2006/07 to address ten recommendations that came out of a consultant's report to align the department with the corporate Aboriginal Employment Strategy framework. The plan identifies steps, responsibilities to follow-up and the targeted date for completion. There is also a requirement for on-going status reporting on the progress toward completion.

Department representation is:

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY GROUP	EMPLOYEES	PERCENTAGE
Female	48	56%
Aboriginal	34	40%
Disabled	2	2.35%
Visible Minority	2	2.35%

Northern Affairs Fund

Rene Gagnon - Director

The Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has the authority under Section 11 of *The Northern Affairs Act* to open and maintain bank accounts for the operation of the Northern Affairs Fund. The fund maintains two bank accounts. One account is the "Specific Purpose Funds Account." This account is used to account for all monies advanced to the Minister for any specific purpose. The main purpose is to administer funds on behalf of designated communities within the jurisdiction of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in compliance with *The Northern Affairs Act*. Other specific activities include the Municipal Employees Benefit Plan (for community employees), cottage sub-division levies and various northern programs/projects administered by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs for other government departments and other agencies.

The second account is the "Taxation Account." This account is used to account for all monies received by virtue of the Minister's municipal taxation powers (per Section 5 of *The Northern Affairs Act*). *The Assessment Act* and *The Municipal Affairs Act* apply to the municipal tax collection system.

Branch staff administer the activities of the Northern Affairs Fund within applicable statutes and regulations in a manner consistent with departmental policies for the development of local government autonomy. Branch staff monitor individual Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities' financial and operational results by requiring that community auditors provide an opinion on their financial statements, report on adherence to various Acts, Regulations and Agreements, and provide a management letter commenting on the community's management control procedures. Branch staff review these reports and advise appropriate management of significant deficiencies and make recommendations for corrective action.

The Objectives of the Northern Affairs Fund are:

- To administer funds on behalf of designated communities within the jurisdiction of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in compliance with *The Northern Affairs Act*.
- To provide accounting and trust services in support of the delivery of various government programs.
- To administer the property tax system within the jurisdiction of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in a manner consistent with accepted municipal practices.
- To administer the municipal employee benefits program for northern communities.

- To administer the community audit program including analysis of the audited financial statements, audit reports and management letters and report analysis results to management.

- To provide accounting and trust services to cottage subdivisions within Aboriginal and Northern Affairs' municipal jurisdiction.

- To prepare the Northern Affairs Fund financial statements.

Results:

- The total revenue in the Trust Fund for 2006/2007 was $22,148,815 managed in 40 programs. The major sources of revenue were:

  $17,055,211 from Aboriginal and Northern Affairs' appropriations
  $2,171,498 in tax revenue [2007 calendar year]
  $2,400,684.75 in General Grant Assistance funds distributed to northern communities and First Nations in Manitoba
  $389,918 collected in Service Levy fee from 18 cottage subdivisions in northern Manitoba

- Administered the "Municipal Employees Benefit Plan (MEBP)" for the benefit of employees of 21 northern communities.

- During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, the department received audits for the 2005/06 fiscal year. Of the 38 communities requiring an audit opinion, 30 received an unqualified opinion, 7 received a qualified opinion, and 1 received a denial of opinion.

19.2(B-4) Northern Affairs Fund

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	237.2	4.00	232.0	5.2	
Other Expenditures	53.8		54.0	(.2)	
Total Expenditures	**291.0**	**4.00**	**286.0**	**(5.0)**	

Programs and Operational Support

Freda Albert - Executive Director

The Executive Director advises the Minister and Deputy Minister on technical and managerial matters related to policy and program development and implementation and service delivery. Programs and Operational Support develops and facilitates inter-departmental partnerships that support economic and local government development in northern Manitoba. It also supports and promotes incorporation as a means for communities to realize greater autonomy. It leads and supports the activities of the Northern Region, the North Central Region and the Program Planning and Development Branch. These three operational areas are collectively referred to as the Local Government Development Division.

The Local Government Development Division funds and oversees the provision of the municipal requirements of 50 designated communities in the unorganized territory of northern Manitoba. The division is committed to the advancement of independent, sustainable local government through a process of partnership and consultation. This commitment is guided by three central objectives:

Good Governance – To support the development of responsible local government through elected community councils, local planning and sound fiscal management, the delivery of municipal services and accountability to local electors.

Improved Quality of Life – To promote a safe and healthy community environment including: community compliance with Manitoba drinking water standards and environmental regulations, facilitation of the development and implementation of community recreation and wellness programs, public safety through support for crime prevention, fire safety programs and emergency planning, and strategic economic development in support of sustainable communities and a stronger economy in northern Manitoba.

Holistic Community Development – To support and facilitate community development initiatives that are community-driven, sustainable and collaborative in partnership with community councils and other provincial departments, jurisdictions and organizations.

Activities during 2006-07 in support of these goals included:

Community Consultation

- In partnership with the Northern Association of Community Councils' 36th Annual General Assembly, the department hosted a one-day mayors and councilors information forum on August 22, 2006. A total of 133 delegates and administrative staff representing 43 communities were registered. The morning session was on the planning process and performance measurement. The afternoon began with the presentation of awards for long service, service excellence and community service. This forum also provided an opportunity for community representatives to seek clarification on the new legislation.
- Regional workshops were held in March 2007 in Thompson and Winnipeg for members of council and community administrative staff. Eighty-three community participants representing 32 communities attended the workshops. The Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) also participated in the workshops with a half day devoted to NACC agenda items.
- The agenda for the regional workshops included an orientation for newly elected council members, presentations on land use planning and the sub-division process, a case study in emergency preparedness using the Waterhen flood, creating safer communities, recreation issues and opportunities, economic development and a case study on the preparation and understanding of financial statements. Presentations were also made by Water Stewardship, Hometown Manitoba and EMO.
- Based on consultations held with community stakeholders work continued throughout the past year on drafting new legislation. The new Act was assented to in December 2006.

Housing Consultation

- Community representatives held a meeting on January 16, 2007 to discuss current housing issues and to draft a strategy on the new initiatives (HOME*Works*!) Program for the North. The communities were a mix of those adjacent to a First Nation, a stand alone community, an incorporated community, and an isolated community. The outcome of the meeting was the formation of a working group. This group called the "Northern Housing Group" was tasked with preparation of a report with recommendations to take forward to consultations conducted by Family Services & Housing (FSH) in March.
- FSH held a consultation in Thompson in March 2007 to provide information on the HOME*Works*! Program. This program was announced with $104.5 million in federal/provincial funding for affordable housing and includes northern Manitobans among the groups targeted.

Community Incorporation

- Discussions on community incorporation continued during the year with Cross Lake and Norway House Community Councils. Both communities have expressed interest in the option to incorporate under the *Northern Affairs Act* with incorporation expected to take place in 2007-08.

19.2 (b-1) Programs and Operational Support

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	219.1	3.00	209.6	9.5	
Other Expenditures	93.8		89.1	4.7	
Community Operations	8,642.4		8,642.4	-	
Regional Services	472.4		478.5	(6.1)	
Grants	323.7		323.7		
Total Expenditures	**9,751.4**	**3.00**	**9,743.3**	**8.1**	

Northern and North Central Regions

The Local Government Development Division serves 50 designated communities through regional offices and sub-offices located in Thompson, The Pas, Dauphin and Winnipeg. The division is responsible for the provision of consulting and advisory services related to municipal administration and the planning and delivery of local services. Other responsibilities include the coordination of service delivery by other provincial government departments and a variety of activities and programs that focus on strategic community development and facilitation of partnerships with other government departments and agencies to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in northern communities.

The regional offices in Dauphin and Thompson with sub-offices in Winnipeg and The Pas deliver the following programs:

Municipal Administration Program

The division's Municipal Development Consultants provided on-going support throughout the year to elected councils and community administrative staff in areas of accounting and administration, planning, financial management and reporting. Specific activities included conducting orientation sessions for councils and new employees, review and feedback on community management plans, the introduction to succession planning and implementation of performance appraisal systems.

- Of 38 external financial audits performed on 2005-06 community financial records, 37 of 38 (98%) communities received either qualified (7) or unqualified audits (30).

Environmental Services Program

Support for the upgrading, operation and maintenance of community water and wastewater treatment facilities and waste disposal grounds continues to be a priority. Environmental Services Consultants worked throughout the year with communities to maintain water and wastewater services and solid waste disposal services and to assist with the resolution of any operating issues as they arose.

A water treatment study led by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Conservation (now Water Stewardship) and the Manitoba Water Services Board between 2001 and 2003 identified 38 communities in northern Manitoba where water treatment plants would have to be upgraded to meet Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. A consultant was also engaged during 2002-03 to inspect and report on 26 wastewater treatment facilities.

The resultant upgrading program is approximately 35-40 percent complete. The upgrading strategy originally planned to be fully complete over a 10 year period had to be extended due to significant cost escalation. Aboriginal and Northern Affairs is addressing water systems on a highest priority (risk-based) basis. Pre-design reports, funding applications, designs and project delivery are ongoing.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

- To date, 12 of 38 water treatment upgrades have been completed: Pikwitonei, Norway House, Dawson Bay, Cross Lake, Cormorant, Brochet, South Indian Lake, Camperville, Waterhen, Manigotagan, Bissett and Red Sucker Lake.
- To date, wastewater treatment upgrades have been completed or are in progress for 9 of 26 identified upgrades including projects for the communities of Brochet, South Indian Lake, Easterville, Cross Lake, Granville Lake, Manigotagan and Pine Dock, Moose Lake and Cormorant.
- In December 2006, funding was announced by the Canada-Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund for water treatment projects in Meadow Portage, Thicket Portage and God's Lake Narrows.

Water & Wastewater Operator Certification

- During 2005-06, the Department collaborated with Red River College, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Education and Training to address the training needs of water and wastewater facility operators from northern and remote locations.
- A significant percentage of the primary operators (38%) have been certified by provincial exam. Completion rates for primary operators for individual courses are: Water Treatment Level I - 24 of 35 or 69%; Water Distribution Level I – 21 of 33 or 64%; Water Treatment Level II – 14 of 22 or 64%; Wastewater Treatment Level I – 14 of 28 or 50%; and Wastewater Collection Level I – 16 of 24 or 67%. The division's Environmental Services Consultants are working with communities to implement individual training plans for all operators and back-up operators.

Public Works Program

Technical and Public Works Consultants work with community councils and public works employees to facilitate the optimum maintenance of community infrastructure and community self-sufficiency in the public works area. Annual audits are made of community infrastructure and deficiencies identified. The audit for 2006-07 resulted in 18 communities (45%) receiving a grade between A- and B+ and 20 (50%) of the communities audited receiving a grade between C- and C+.

Workplace Safety and Health

- Subsequent to publication of *A Safe Workplace – A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community* effective April 1, 2005, the implementation stage of the Workplace Safety and Health Initiative began. This included the provision of initial training for elected community representatives and employees. It is anticipated that the training will be completed by 2007/08.
- The training program was developed in collaboration with Red River College and consists of such components as hazard assessment, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), first aid and confined space.
- Where required, workplace safety and health equipment, which includes confined space entry equipment, lockout tag-out equipment and emergency eye wash stations, was purchased, delivered and installed during 2006/07. Training was provided in conjunction with the delivery of the safety equipment.
- As part of the WPSH legislative requirements, departmental consultants have conducted inspections of community workplaces and completed hazard assessments.

Public Works Employee Workshops

- A three-day workshop was held January 9-11, 2007 for public works employees from communities in the North Central Region. Twenty-one participants attended. The mix of topics included chemical pump maintenance, distribution pump maintenance, proper water sampling protocols, waste disposal site regulations, workplace safety and health and a review of the new Safe Water Act. Day three was a professional development day devoted to workshops on report writing and communicating.
- A similar workshop was held in Thompson January 30 – February 1, 2007 for sixteen public works employees from communities in the Northern Region. The material covered over the three days included mechanical and electrical maintenance terminology, pump maintenance, report writing, record keeping, identifying tool requirements, chlorination, new regulations and proper sampling techniques.

Community and Resource Development Program

Community and Resource Development Consultants work with community officials and representatives on the creation of community and regional round tables, the formation and operation of community development corporations and they facilitate the implementation of economic development strategies based on identified local opportunities.

Joint Co-operative Development Project (JCDP)

- The Lakeview Consumer Co-op at Seymourville opened its doors February 1, 2007 and had its grand opening May 18, 2007.
- Camperville is in the business planning stage for their local retail co-op.
- JCDP is seeking funding for the support and aftercare for the Seymourville and Camperville Co-ops from Cooperative Development Initiatives, Cooperative Secretariat and the federal government

Community Development Officer Proposal

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs spearheaded a proposal for the training of 4 community development officers with a view to increasing the capacity of northern communities to actively participate in local economic development opportunities. Many northern communities have participated in round table processes to formulate economic development plans and will benefit from additional resources to implement plans and strategies.
- This proposal includes an education and training component that will build local capacity to mobilize regional and/or community economic development plans and projects.
- The proposal has moved to the implementation stage. Community Development Officers have been recruited for Norway House, Camperville and Seymourville.

Broadband Service

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs is working with proponents of broadband communications and has contributed towards the cost of towers which will be built in six Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities in the Parkland region. This will facilitate the delivery of high speed internet services to many surrounding communities in this region.

New Community Development Corporations

- In collaboration with the Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF), community development corporations have been established for the communities of Brochet, Thicket Portage and Norway House.

Protective Services Program

Protective Services Consultants continued to work with communities on an ongoing basis in the development and implementation of specific community based initiatives striving to make northern communities a safer place to live. These activities encompass emergency planning, fire protection and policing. Services, including training and equipment, are provided for in collaboration with the Office of the Fire Commissioner, EMO and the RCMP.

Fire Program

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs completed its Fire Program review in partnership with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and began to implement changes including new categories of service based on a risk assessment done for all communities.
- Improvements to the program included new training opportunities and the upgrading of fire trucks and turnout gear on a priority basis.
- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs provided the necessary operating funds to support training, helped coordinate course delivery in partnership with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and ensured that the necessary equipment and personal protective gear was available to support the training.
- Four communities received training in 2005/06 (Duck Bay, Camperville, Barrows and Cormorant) and another seven in 2006/07 (Thicket Portage, Moose Lake, Pelican Rapids, Crane River, Meadow Portage, Sherridon and Pikwitonei). Six more communities are scheduled to be trained in 2007/08. Five fire trucks were delivered to communities in 2005/06 and another three were delivered in November 2006.
- The department provided support for community participation in the 2006 Manitoba Emergency Services Conference put on by the Office of the Fire Commissioner in Brandon in October 2006. The department also hosted a full day's agenda for community fire fighters at the conference.

Constable Program

- Recommendations based on a review of the Constable Program in cooperation with Justice and the RCMP were implemented. Recommendations include a clear assignment of roles and responsibilities among the partners, better communication, enhanced training for community constables and upgrades to equipment including vehicles.
- The program was extended to the communities of Thicket Portage and Pikwitonei who have not previously had a constable program as part of their municipal services.
- Constables from the communities of Camperville, Crane River, Duck Bay, Pikwitonei and Thicket Portage commenced an intensive three-week training program in March 2006 at the RCMP "D" Division headquarters in Winnipeg. This training program is the result of a partnership between Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, the RCMP Aboriginal Policing Directorate and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.
- In October 2006, new vehicles were delivered to seven communities and two more were delivered in March 2007. All vehicles are fully equipped with provisions for maintaining radio contact with the RCMP.

- Our department, in partnership with Education Training and Youth, provided funding to communities to help support the RCMP Summer Youth Employment Program. The First Nations communities of Waywayseecappo, Peguis, Tataskweyak, God's Lake Narrows, Island Lake Tribal Council and the Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities of Wabowden, Cross Lake, and Norway House participated in the program to hire a summer student to work with members of the RCMP in preventative policing areas.

Recreation and Wellness Program

Recreation consultants work in partnership with community recreation staff, elected representatives, other departments, agencies and stakeholders to promote recreation and wellness programming, provincial initiatives and the recommendations of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force.

Northern Links – Recreation Workshop

- Northern Links is an annual professional development workshop primarily for recreation directors but is increasingly attracting others working in the area of community health and wellness. Participants are drawn from Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and First Nation communities and the feedback from participants and key stakeholders is very positive as departmental staff continues to improve the workshop each year.
- This year's event held September 18-22, 2006, drew 20 participants. The workshop features sessions on leadership, program planning, building partnerships and writing grants and proposals. Numerous agencies and organizations participated in the partners trade show.

Regional Summer Leadership Workshops

- Three workshops, at Crane River, Manigotagan and Wabowden, were co-facilitated and co-funded by Local Government Development. Participating communities included Meadow Portage, Rock Ridge, Mallard, Camperville, Waterhen, Seymourville, Bissett, Cross Lake, Norway House and Moose Lake. Adjacent First Nations communities also participated.

www.NorthernLinks.org

- Direct support from the Local Government Development Division of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs led to the creation of a new web site www.NorthernLinks.org. Northern Links is a relatively new initiative to reach out to sport and recreation directors, program leaders, coaches, teachers and health advocates in Canada's Aboriginal, rural and remote communities.

- It offers professional support in managing, creating and updating community sport and recreation programming. Users can search the database for information on policies, program outlines, forms and guides or post a question and receive tips, advice and support from colleagues throughout Canada.
- Support for this initiative was coordinated by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in collaboration with other provincial government stakeholders.

Northern Links Recreation Newsletter

- A new recreation and wellness newsletter was introduced with a new name and new look. It will be published four times a year. Issues were published in July and September 2006 with the next issue scheduled for May 2007. This newsletter is distributed to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and First Nation communities.

Northern and Remote WaterSmart Initiative

- Support arising from a partnership between Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and the departments of Healthy Child Manitoba, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Education and Conservation enabled the Lifesaving Society – Manitoba Division to deliver a water safety education program across northern Manitoba.
- Based on the success of the pilot program in 2005, the program was expanded in 2006. The program visited 15 communities with 370 participants in Swim to Survive, 87 of 134 students graduating from Boat Operator Accredited Training and certification of 124 of 160 candidates in Emergency First Aid/CPR "A".

Recreation Leadership Training

- Departmental sponsorship has enabled recreation directors from Cross Lake, Norway House and Wabowden to enroll in a new Recreation Leadership Certificate Program being offered by University College of the North at its satellite campuses in Cross Lake and Norway House.

19.2(b-2) Northern Region

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	924.4	13.00	942.1	(17.7)	
Other Expenditures	363.3		377.1	(13.8)	
Total Expenditures	**1,287.7**	**13.00**	**1,319.2**	**(31.5)**	

19.2(b-3) North Central Region

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	1,020.9	13.00	912.8	108.1	
Other Expenditures	303.6		282.1	21.5	
Total Expenditures	**1,324.5**	**13.00**	**1,194.9**	**129.6**	

PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (PPD)

The Program Planning and Development Branch provides consistent policy and program development, strategic and operational planning and performance measurement support, communication services, resource material development, and research and analytical capability in support of local government and community development.

Program Planning and Development Branch staff is assigned to all program areas and is responsible for program review and innovation. In addition to support provided to specific program areas, the branch achieved the following during 2006-07:

The *Northern Affairs Act* Proclaimed

- Based on consultations held with community stakeholders, work continued during the year on drafting new legislation. The new Act was assented to in December 2006 and the Act was proclaimed January 1, 2007.

Scrap Metal Recycling Pilot Project

- PPD developed and coordinated the implementation of a scrap metal recycling pilot project that resulted in the clean up and removal of 30 tons of scrap metal from waste disposal sites at Bissett, Manigotagan and Seymourville. In addition, assessments were conducted in five communities in the Northern Region and seven communities in the North Central Region.

Publications

- Bi-monthly issues of the departmental newsletter continue to provide community officials, residents and other stakeholders information on programs, initiatives and activities that impact and reflect community development.
- In November 2006, the branch published a new *Subdivision Process Guide* as part of the Community Management Series of manuals. The *Guide* contains information to assist sub-division applicants, community councils, and administrative staff understands the subdivision review and approval process.
- A fire program information booklet for use by elected officials was developed to facilitate understanding of the transition to the revised fire program and standards.

Employee Recognition Program

- At the 2006 NACC annual gathering, community employees were recognized with service excellence awards and community volunteers and elected representatives were presented with certificates for long service.

Community Elections

- Community elections were held in February 2007 with guidance provided by branch staff in the capacity of Principal Electoral Officer. Regular elections were held for 72 councillor vacancies and 12 vacancies for mayor. In addition there were four by-elections for councillor positions held in conjunction with the regular election.

Bursary and Employment Program

- The Local Government Development Division sponsored four bursaries in Engineering and Civil Engineering Technology in collaboration with the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation. Four Aboriginal students were awarded bursaries in November 2006. As in past years, bursary winners were eligible for summer employment with the Engineering Services branch of the Local Government Development Division.

Building Independence Initiative

- In partnership with the departments of Family Services and Housing and Competitiveness, Training and Trade, funding and administrative support was provided to facilitate participation in this program by twenty-two individuals from ten communities. The initiative supports the development of employment opportunities for recipients of provincial income assistance and offers paid work experience and training through community improvement projects or vacant community positions.

19.2(B-5) Program Planning & Development Services

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	426.6	7.00	529.0	(102.4)	
Other Expenditures	92.0		96.1	(4.1)	
Total Expenditures	**518.6**	**7.00**	**625.1**	**(106.5)**	

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Joe Morrisseau – Executive Director

The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat's three branches - Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Agreements Management and Support Services are focused on efforts to improve quality of life for Aboriginal and northern Manitobans and to promote a relationship of mutual understanding, trust and respect between the provincial government and Aboriginal and northern Manitobans.

The Secretariat influences policy and development of initiatives to create positive change in government and communities and supports development in Aboriginal and northern communities by providing financial and technical resources.

The Secretariat assists First Nations and northern communities with self-government agreements and the negotiation and implementation of settlement agreements related to hydro-electric development in northern Manitoba, treaty land entitlements and other land-related issues.

Objectives:

- To influence development and delivery of policies, programs and services that result in safe, healthy and secure environments.
- To conclude agreements related to adverse effects of hydro-electric development, treaty land entitlement and other land-related matters.
- To fulfill provincial responsibilities resulting from agreements and other initiatives.
- To increase community confidence, knowledge and leadership skills.
- To develop meaningful partnerships between Aboriginal and northern people and all levels of government.
- To build a workforce representative of Aboriginal and northern people.
- To promote a more sustainable entrepreneurial and community economic environment.
- To provide administrative management services, technical research and special project support for the Secretariat.

The program specific activities are provided under separate headings.

Support Services

Activities:

- Provided the department with coordination and monitoring of information technology activities.
- Provided Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat with quality administrative management services, including financial administration, human resource services, management reporting, information technology management, and administrative support services.
- Provided Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat with technical research and special project support.

Results:

- Coordinated and monitored departmental information technology activities for adherence to standard government policies and practices.
- Financial resources allocated for the maximum benefit.
- Efficient and effective use of human resources in reaching the program objectives.
- Support services were provided within established service standards.

19.2(C-1) Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	360.7	6.50	349.5	11.2	
Other Expenditures	79.9		80.0	(.1)	
Total Expenditures	**440.6**	**6.50**	**429.5**	**11.1**	

Agreements Management

To ensure the negotiation and successful implementation of settlements that will, collectively and individually, resolve land and other issues that relate to hydro-electric development, treaty land entitlement and other land exchange and/or land use related agreements.

To assist with the completion of Constitutionally-obligated provincial consultations.

Activities:

Promoted the development of positive relations and an atmosphere of partnership and trust between government and the Aboriginal community:

- Through informational presentations to government and non-government groups;
- Through the coordination of forums for information sharing between government departments and Aboriginal organizations who share common goals and issues; and
- Through Constitutionally-obligated provincial consultations with Aboriginal communities.

Established and maintained contacts and working relationships with other jurisdictions, provincial government departments, organizations and other Aboriginal/northern interests in support of northern Manitoba, its communities and residents.

Continued the negotiation and resolution of Manitoba's obligations under the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA).

- Developed and implemented processes and programs with Cross Lake First Nation, Canada and Manitoba Hydro.
- Conducted land exchange initiatives with Cross Lake and Norway House.
- Conducted discussions with the Cross Lake Trappers' Association on Claim 22.

Coordinated and/or participated in the NFA arbitration process for Cross Lake First Nation and other individual claims under the NFA.

Continued implementation activities related to NFA Comprehensive Implementation Agreements (CIA's) with Tataskweyak Cree Nation (formerly Split Lake Cree First Nation), Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (formerly Nelson House First Nation), York Factory First Nation and Norway House Cree Nation.

- Participated on and provided ongoing support to four resource co-management boards.
- Coordinated and/or participated in the land transfer process for lands designated to be reserve under NFA CIA's.

- Coordinated and/or participated in the surveying of permit and fee simple land as specified in the Comprehensive Implementation Agreements.
- Participated in the development of a Heritage Resources Agreement between Manitoba and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Negotiated claims with non-NFA communities impacted by hydro-electric development.

- Continued discussions toward settlements for adverse effects of Manitoba Hydro projects with the Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities of Norway House, Cross Lake, Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, and Nelson House. (Agreement signed May 2006).

Continued the negotiation of the settlement of the Salt Point Road/PR 276 claim with Skownan First Nation for compensation for provincial road right-of-way.

Continued participation on the Cedar Lake Resource Co-Management Board (Chemawawin Cree Nation and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs community of Easterville), and the Cormorant Resource Co-Management Board as per Settlement Agreements.

Continued settlement agreement negotiations with Mosakahiken Cree Nation.

Continued implementation of 8 signed Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) agreements (for 28 First Nations) between Manitoba, Canada and the signatory First Nations for processing land selections and acquisitions.

- Continued to develop and establish implementation dispute resolution/mediation/arbitration process of the TLE Framework Agreement through the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) and the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC).
- Led the Provincial Implementation Team in evaluating and processing TLE land selections.
- Continued the Crown land transfer process involving 843,878 acres selected under the Framework Agreement and 100,474 acres under other TLE agreements as of March 31, 2007. Under the Framework Agreement, 186,537 acres transferred to Canada with 46,906 acres set apart as reserve. Under other TLE agreements, 100,474 acres transferred to Canada with 86,902 acres set apart as reserve. Continued to participate in the development of Agreed Forms with Canada and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba to facilitate the implementation of TLE.
- Provided public information regarding the implementation of the TLE Framework Agreement and detailed information to municipalities and other stakeholders where necessary.

- Representatives of Manitoba, Canada and TLEC continued to discuss and resolve implementation issues relevant to outstanding TLE selections through the Tri-Party process.
- Continued to meet with TLE First Nations to assist the land transfer process.

Finalized an agreement with Canada and Peguis First Nation to address outstanding TLE. The Agreement has not yet been ratified by band members of Peguis First Nation.

Continued the TLE Crown land selection and acquisition process with respect to the TLE First Nations of Garden Hill, Swan Lake, Long Plain, and Roseau River.

Coordination of and participation in northern development activities and initiatives:

- Continued working with the commercial fishers of Berens River and other fishing communities on Lake Winnipeg to assist them in the development of their associations and to improve the viability and sustainability of their fishing industry.
- Participated with the departments of Education and Training and Conservation on the Board of Directors for the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.
- Participated on Federal/Provincial Forestry Working Group and Federal/Provincial Fisheries Working Group.
- Participated in the East Side Planning Initiative.
- Participated on development of the study for a winter/all weather road to Nunavut.
- Participated in negotiations related to the constitution by Canada of O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN) as a First Nation at South Indian Lake.
- Participated in the discussions on the development of the Terms of Reference for Trilateral Resource Access Committee working group between Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Canada and Manitoba.
- Participated in the Crown Consultation Process for Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects, CRD final licensing project, Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. long-term forest management plan and Southern Hardwood Development Project.

Major Accomplishments include:

- As of March 31, 2007, Manitoba has transferred 282,275 acres of Crown Land to Canada regarding provincial obligations under Treaty Land Entitlement. Aboriginal and Northern Affairs is committed to transferring 150,000 acres per year for the next four years to be set apart as Reserve Land.

- Participated in productive discussions with the appointed Working Group from Cross Lake First Nation in implementation of the NFA for Cross Lake First Nation.

- Completed a TLE Agreement for community ratification by Peguis First Nation.

- Completed ground control work related to 43 TLE Selections which are subject to a Hydro Easement and required for photogrammetric surveying.

- Participated in Aboriginal consultations for the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects, CRD final licensing project, Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. long-term forest management plan and Southern Hardwood Development Project.

19.2(C-2) Agreements Management

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	533.1	7.00	521.3	11.8	
Other Expenditures	582.6		133.9	(1.3)	
Recovery from Enabling Vote	(450.0)				
Agreements Implementation	1,281.3		1,281.3	-	
Total Expenditures	**1,947.0**	**7.00**	**1,936.5**	**10.5**	

Policy and Strategic Initiatives

The objectives of the Policy and Strategic Initiatives Branch are to:

- Work with provincial departments on policy and program development in the areas of health, education, social services, justice, economic and community development to achieve improved well-being for Aboriginal Manitobans.

- Negotiate and implement self-government options.

- Provide and leverage financial and technical resources in support of Aboriginal capacity building initiatives.

Activities:

Promoted the development of better relations and an atmosphere of partnership and trust between government and the Aboriginal community:

- Through informational presentations to government and non-government groups;
- By working with Aboriginal organizations in the preparation of business plans reflecting common goals and issues; and
- Through the coordination of forums for information sharing between government departments and Aboriginal organizations on common goals and issues.

Promoted the development of coordinated Aboriginal policies and programs which enhance the ability of the Province to respond to Aboriginal issues in a timely and effective manner.

- Worked with interdepartmental and intergovernmental working groups and steering committees to review and develop policies, programs and initiatives;
- Maintained liaison with other provincial departments to ensure continuity and consistency of program development and implementation;
- Responded to departmental requests to review policies, programs and proposals and provide advice on matters of concern for Aboriginal Manitobans;
- Coordinated information on government activities in response to Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission (AJIC) report recommendations and provided reports to Cabinet; and
- Provided support and information to the Aboriginal Issues Cabinet Committee.

Developed strategies to address the needs of Aboriginal people.

- Initiated working groups on Aboriginal Health and Well-being, Economic Opportunities, Housing, and Early Childhood Development and Education with a view towards closing the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Manitoba;
- Continued implementing the Aboriginal employment strategy and signed additional agreements with employers in the health and information technology sectors to promote the recruitment, employment and retention of Aboriginal people in all levels of employment within their workforces and the employer groups that they represent;
- In partnership with the Department of Education, Training and Youth, provided funding to Partners for Careers for a store front operation in Winnipeg and to continue work with Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres with placing Aboriginal graduates in careers;
- Administered the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative with assistance from Manitoba Agriculture, Foods and Rural Initiatives, Healthy Child Manitoba and Healthy Living; and
- Contributed to a number of broader processes aimed at addressing the issue of Aboriginal suicide prevention such as the developing Manitoba Framework for Suicide Prevention and the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch's National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS).

Provided a coordinated Provincial response to Aboriginal requests for assistance and support for Aboriginal initiatives such as:

- Actively supporting the Aboriginal Partnership Committee to advise and assist with implementing the Aboriginal component of the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement;
- Participated on various committees to review services to Aboriginal persons with disabilities, Aboriginal women's issues, and Aboriginal housing.
- Regularly field information requests on Aboriginal statistics from other departments and organizations external to the provincial government.

Provided and leveraged financial and technical resources in support of Aboriginal capacity building initiatives.

- Administered the Aboriginal Development Program by:
    - Receiving business plans and disbursing core funding to the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin Inc., the Southern Chiefs Organization, Mother of Red Nations and the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council and the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres for distribution to the eleven centers in Manitoba;

- Providing funding to the Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg in support of tripartite negotiations; and
- Assessing project proposals and disbursing grants for community-based projects benefiting Aboriginal communities.

- Administered and monitored the Aboriginal Economic and Resource Development (AERD) Fund by assessing project proposals from community-based Aboriginal groups, making recommendations on project funding and disbursing grants.

Took the lead in tripartite processes representing Manitoba in discussions and negotiations on Aboriginal self-government and federal/provincial cooperative arrangements for Aboriginal peoples in forums such as:

- Sioux Valley First Nation self-government negotiations on the development of a Comprehensive Agreement, which may result in a model for future provincial community-based self-government agreements;
- Tripartite agreement and process with the federal government and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg to develop initiatives to address the priorities of Aboriginal people living in Winnipeg;
- Métis self-government negotiations with the Manitoba Métis Federation and the federal government to consider matters of priority to the Métis;

Cooperated with other provinces, territories and national Aboriginal groups to address Aboriginal issues.

- Continued participation on planning committees with provinces and territories in follow-up to the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in November 2005;
- Coordinated Manitoba's input into the National Aboriginal Health Summit in British Columbia in November 2006 and the Excellence In Action Aboriginal Economic Symposium in Saskatchewan in January 2007; and
- Continued board membership on the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada and related activities with Aboriginal employment and training.

Major Accomplishments include:

- Initiation of interdepartmental working groups to further develop implementation plans for Manitoba's Closing the Gap Strategy to address the gap in socio-economic well-being between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Manitoba. This work builds on the commitments made at the First Ministers Meeting (FMM) on Aboriginal Issues in November 2005 and it entails significant interdepartmental coordination and work with other levels of government, Aboriginal organizations and the corporate sector.

- Manitoba has an established Intergovernmental Committee on First Nations Health to advise on First Nations' health issues. This joint Working Group (including Manitoba Health and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs) has been in place in advance of the Aboriginal Health Blueprint process which was discussed during the First

- Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues. A major undertaking on a Health Care Fiscal Analysis Report (of all First Nation health expenditures and future projections) was completed in 2006/2007. Committee members presented on the work of the joint working group at a conference on Northern Aboriginal Health in Calgary in February 2007.

- Interest has continued to grow in the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative. In 2006/07, the three regional partners, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, Bayline Regional Roundtable, and Northern Association of Community Councils, of the gardening component called "Grow North" reported 273 vegetable gardens in 18 northern communities. Other projects included a feasibility study to bring a "buyer direct" system on nutritious foods to the Island Lake area and implementation of a "Veggie Adventure" elementary curriculum program in partnership with Frontier School Division.

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs is actively represented on the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada (ARHRDCC) Board of Directors and Champions Circle and contributed towards securing resources to embark on development of a National Aboriginal Apprenticeships Strategy. A Manitoba steering committee was established to plan a Manitoba Workforce Connex forum to connect employers with Aboriginal human resources.

- The Aboriginal Development Program (ADP) supported operating costs of $2,246,900 to eight Aboriginal organizations: Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin (MKIO), Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO), Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), Mother of Red Nations (MORN), Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres (MAC) which includes 11 Friendship Centres, and Manitoba Sport & Recreation Council (MASRC). In 2006/07, responsibility was transferred to the department to administer funding to the Manitoba Association of Aboriginal Languages. In addition, a total of $390,000 was provided to support the tripartite agreements between Canada, Manitoba and the MMF and Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg. The small grants component of ADP supports capacity building activities of community-based organizations. In 2006/2007, the ADP Fund supported 55 small projects with a total of $114,842.50 in grants.

- The department was authorized $1.4 million in fiscal year 2006/2007 to continue a seventh year of the Aboriginal Economic and Resource Development (AERD) Fund. The AERD Fund supports projects that demonstrate an ability to achieve improved well-being for Aboriginal Manitobans. Priority is given to projects that address the critical employment situation for Aboriginal people and to projects that assist in addressing the goals of the Northern Development Strategy. In 2006/2007, the AERD Fund supported 62 projects with a total of $1,397,667.65 in grants. The total budgeted value of the 62 projects is $7,756,625,52. Total provincial commitment to

these projects are $2,867,685.09. Total revenue leveraged from sources other than provincial government for the AERD projects is $4,749,930.43.

19.2(C-3) Policy & Strategic Initiatives

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries & Employee Benefits	784.3	8.00	782.8	1.5	
Other Expenditures	266.6		266.6	-	
Aboriginal Development Programs	2,751.7		2,731.8	19.9	
Aboriginal Economic and Resources Development Fund	1,277.7		1,400.0	(122.3)	
Partners For Careers	200.0		200.0	-	
Northern Healthy Foods Initiative	179.0		179.0	-	
First Nations Economic Development Fund	500.0			-	
Recovery From Other Appropriations	(500.0)				
Total Expenditures	**5,459.3**	**8.00**	**5,560.2**	**(100.9)**	

Communities Economic Development Fund

Gordon Wakeling - General Manager and CEO

The Communities Economic Development Fund is a provincial Crown Corporation (*Communities Economic Development Fund Act – C155 Consolidated Statutes of Manitoba)* whose objective is to encourage economic development in Northern Manitoba with specific emphasis on the needs of small business and community development corporations. It may do so by providing financial and other forms of assistance. CEDF delivers services under 4 program areas.

The Business Loans Program provides financial assistance in the form of loans and loan guarantees for viable economic enterprises unable to obtain financing on acceptable terms from other sources. The loan applicants must comply with specific criteria, established in regulations, to become eligible. Business loans can be for the purposes of start-up, expansion, and in certain cases, restructuring.

The Fisherman's Loan Program (formerly under Part III of *The Fisheries Act)* assists the commercial fishery with the purchase or repair of fishing equipment and the purchase of quota entitlements. The program is available to licensed Manitoba commercial fishermen over 18 years of age.

The Fund's Team program is a micro-enterprise development program. The program supports clients with technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of loans.

In addition, CEDF delivers programs under the Rural Economic Development Initiative on a contract basis and can provide consulting assistance to communities and individual entrepreneurs in the North.

Details of the Development Fund's Financial Statement and current activities are available in its Annual Report.

19.2(D) Communities Economic Development Fund

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Total Expenditures	**1,514.1**		**1,514.9**	**(.8)**	

Capital Grants Program

This program provides financial support to communities for municipal infrastructure and equipment and offers consulting services and support for the development of project planning and delivery capacity at the community level. Enhancing infrastructure in northern communities has a direct impact on opportunities for community economic benefits.

- In the 2006/07 fiscal year, the department's capital allocation for infrastructure upgrades and equipment in northern communities included the following amounts:

$ 2,566.3	Water
$ 1,855.6	Wastewater
$ 50.0	Waste Disposal Site Study
$ 815.3	Fire Program
$ 108.0	Surveys and Subdivisions
$ 505.6	Engineering, Design & Inspections, etc.

- The department provided its annual contribution $3.0 million O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation to fulfill the obligation of the infrastructure renewal agreement with the establishment of a reserve at South Indian Lake.

- This year, the department derived significant benefit from the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program (CMIP) and the Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). An additional $1.6 million over and above the Capital Program allocation of $6.6 million was leveraged through participation in CMIP and MRIF, enhancing the department's capacity to address infrastructure needs in northern communities.

19.3 Capital Grants Program

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Northern Communities	9,485.7	4.00	9,586.9	(101.2)	
Community Access and Resource Roads	235.0		235.0	-	
Total Expenditures	**9,720.7**	**4.00**	**9,821.9**	**(101.2)**	

Amortization of Capital Assets

This represents the amortization of the department's computer equipment provided by Desktop Management and the Better Methods (SAP) initiatives.

19.4 Amortization of Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $	Estimate 2006/2007 FTE	Estimate 2006/2007 $	Variance Over (Under)	Expl. No.
Total Expenditures	**170.4**		**170.6**	**(.2)**	

Financial Information

Reconciliation Statement

DETAIL	2006/2007 ESTIMATES
2006/2007 Main Estimates	$30,420.0
Transfer from Internal Reform, Workforce Adjustment and General Salary Increases	$123.8
Transfer From Flex Fund	$89.2
2006/2007 ESTIMATES	$34,197.2

Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Expenditure Summary

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2006/2007 $(000's)	Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $(000's)	Actual 2005/2006 $(000's)	Increase (Decrease) $(000's)	Explanation No.
	19-1 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Executive				
30.4	a) Minister's Salary	30.3	29.7	.6	
	b) Executive Support				
806.0	Salaries	805.5	833.0	(27.5)	
276.1	Expenditures	273.1	273.3	(.2)	
1,082.1		1,078.6	1,106.3	(27.7)	
1,112.5	**Total 19-1**	**1,108.9**	**1,136.0**	**(27.1)**	

Estimate 2006/2007 $(000's)	Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $(000's)	Actual 2005/2006 $(000's)	Increase (Decrease) $(000's)	Explanation No.
	19.2 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Operations				
	a) Financial and Administrative Services				
368.7	Salaries	388.2	371.2	17.0	
113.9	Expenditures	108.2	113.1	(4.9)	
482.6		496.4	484.3	12.1	
	b-1) Programs and Operational Support				
209.6	Salaries	219.1	216.9	2.2	
89.1	Expenditures	93.8	81.0	12.8	
8,642.4	Community Operations	8,642.4	9,143.4	(501.0)	
478.5	Regional Services	472.4	478.4	(6.0)	
323.7	Grants	323.7	298.7	25.0	
9,743.3		9,751.4	10,218.4	(467.0)	
	b-2) Northern Region				
942.1	Salaries	924.4	856.4	68.0	
377.1	Expenditures	363.3	341.2	22.1	
1,319.2		1,287.7	1,197.6	90.1	
	b-3) North Central Region				
912.8	Salaries	1,020.9	928.6	92.3	
282.1	Expenditures	303.6	271.1	32.5	
1,194.9		1,324.5	1,199.7	124.8	

Estimate 2006/2007 $(000's)	Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $(000's)	Actual 2005/2006 $(000's)	Increase (Decrease) $(000's)	Explanation No.
	19.2 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Operations (continued)				
	b-4) Northern Affairs Fund				
232.0	Salaries	237.2	195.6	41.6	
54.0	Expenditures	53.8	53.9	(.1)	
286.0		291.0	249.5	41.5	
	b-5) Program Planning and Development				
529.0	Salaries	426.6	422.2	4.4	
96.1	Expenditures	92.0	96.0	(4.0)	
625.1		518.6	518.2	.4	
	c-1) Support Services				
349.5	Salaries	360.7	330.8	29.9	
80.0	Expenditures	79.9	79.0	.9	
429.5		440.6	409.8	30.8	
	c-2) Agreements Management				
521.3	Salaries	533.1	513.2	19.9	
133.9	Expenditures	582.6	249.1	83.5	
(450.0)	Recovery From Enabling Vote(26-1)	(450.0)	(200.0)		
1,281.3	Agreements Implementation	1,281.3	1,277.6	3.7	
1,936.5		1,947.0	1,839.9	107.1	

Expenditure Summary (continued)

Estimate 2006/2007 $(000's)	Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $(000's)	Actual 2005/2006 $(000's)	Increase (Decrease) $(000's)	Explanation No.
	19.2 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Operations (continued)				
	c-3) Policy & Strategic Initiatives				
782.8	Salaries	784.3	675.3	109.0	
266.6	Expenditures	266.6	207.5	59.1	
2,731.8	Aboriginal Development Programs	2,751.7	2,735.0	16.7	
1,400.0	Aboriginal Economic and Resources Development Fund	1,277.7	1,380.8	(103.1)	
200.00	Partners for Careers	200.0	200.0	-	
179.0	Northern Healthy Foods Initiative	179.0	179.0	-	
500.0	First Nations Economic Development Fund	500.0			
(500.0)	Recovery from Other Appropriations	(500.0)			
5,560.2		5,459.3	5,377.6	81.7	
1,514.9	d) Communities Economic Development Fund	1,514.1	1,513.8	.3	
23,092.2	**Total 19.2**	**23,030.6**	**23,008.8**	**21.8**	

Estimate 2006/2007 $(000's)	Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $(000's)	Actual 2005/2006 $(000's)	Increase (Decrease) $(000's)	Explanation No.
	19-3 Capital Grants				
9,586.9	a) Northern Communities	9,485.7	7,811.6	1,674.1	1
235.0	b) Community Access and Resource Roads	235.0	234.9	.1	
9,821.9	**Total 19.3**	**9,720.7**	**8,046.5**	**1,674.2**	
170.6	**19-4 Amortization of Capital Assets**	170.4	174.5	(4.1)	
170.6	**Total 19-4**	**170.4**	**174.5**	**(4.1)**	
34,197.2	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**34,030.6**	**32,365.8**	**1,664.8**	

1. The greater portion of the increase is to meet the full year obligation for the Capital Upgrading Management Agreement with OPCN. In 2005-06 the department made a partial contribution toward this agreement as the agreement was signed in December 2005.

Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Expenditure Summary by Main Appropriation

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2006/2007 $(000's)	Appropriation	Actual 2006/2007 $(000's)	Actual 2005/2006 $(000's)	Increase (Decrease) $(000's)	Explanation No.
1,112.5	19-1 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Executive	1,108.9	1,136.0	(27.1)	
23,092.2	19-2 Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Operations	23,030.6	23,008.8	21.8	
9,821.9	19-3 Capital Grants	9,720.7	8,046.5	1,674.2	
170.6	19-4 Amortization of Capital Assets	170.4	174.5	(4.1)	
34,197.2	**Total**	**34,030.6**	**32,365.8**	**1,664.8**	

Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Five Year Expenditure and Staffing by Appropriation ($000's)

For years ending March 31, 2003 - March 31, 2007

Actual/Adjusted Expenditures

Appropriation	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007	
	FTE	$	FTE	$	FTE	$	FTE	$	FTE	$
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Executive	13.00	844.6	15.00	847.8	15.00	1,038.3	15.00	1,136.0	15.00	1,108.9
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Operations	66.50	23,853.3	65.50	21,450.9	65.50	21,917.3	66.50	23,008.8	69.50	23,030.6
Acquisition/Construction	5.00	5,393.3	5.00	6,393.3	5.00	6,356.5	4.00	8,046.5	4.00	9,720.7
Amortization of Assets		119.6		73.4		175.7		174.5		170.4
Total Expenditure	**86.50**	**30,210.8**	**85.50**	**28,765.4**	**85.50**	**29,487.8**	**85.50**	**32,365.8**	**88.50**	**34,030.6**

Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Revenue Summary by Source ($000's)

For year ended March 31, 2007 with comparative figures for the previous fiscal year

Actual 2005/2006	Actual 2006/2007	Increase (Decrease)	Source	Actual 2006/2007	Estimate 2006/2007	Variance	Expl. No.
			Other Revenue:				
			a) Sundry				
.6	.8	.2	Recoveries From Community Councils	.8		.8	
97.2	119.0	21.8	Chief Place of Residency	119.0	130.0	(11.0)	
97.8	119.8	22.0		119.8	130.0	(10.2)	
			Government of Canada:				
72.4	90.1	17.7	a) Northern Flood	90.1	100.0	(9.9)	
170.2	**209.9**	**39.7**	**TOTAL DEPARTMENT**	**209.9**	**230.0**	**(20.1)**	

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

What is being measured and using what indicator?	Why is it important to measure this?	Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)?	What is the 2006-2007 (current year) result or most recent available data?	What is the trend over time?	Comments / recent actions / report links
Well-being / economic success of Aboriginal people in Manitoba, as measured by the difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal median income for individuals age 15 and over.	Economic success as measured by income directly affects the standard of living and general level of well-being of individuals and families. The difference in median income levels provides one indicator of the relative well-being of Aboriginal people in Manitoba. Our goal is to see this gap decreasing over time.	According to the 2001 Census, Aboriginal people age 15 and over had a median income of $12,459 as compared to the non-Aboriginal median income of $21,634. This reflects a difference of $9,175.	2006 Census information not available until January 2008	It is difficult to assume a trend from two measures; so far the gap in median income appears stable. Over time, when additional data becomes available, we may be able to see whether a trend is developing. According to the 1996 Census, Aboriginal people age 15 and over had a median income of $10,408 as compared to the non-Aboriginal median income of $19,524. This reflects a difference of $9,116. The difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal median incomes has remained roughly the same since 1996. In absolute terms income levels of both groups have grown since 1996.	This indicator is measurable once every five years via the Census. A variety of factors combine to influence median income levels. Income levels vary greatly among Aboriginal groups. For example, according to the 2001 Census, the median income for Métis individuals was $15,931 as opposed to $10,543 for North American Indians. Using the same data, the median income of those North American Indians living on reserve was $8,980. Manitoba's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations have different age structures. For example, the median age of Aboriginal people in 2001 was 23 as opposed to the non-Aboriginal median age of 39. All 1996 values are reported in 2000 dollars. See Figure 1
Well-being / economic	Engaging Aboriginal people in the	According to the 2001 Census, Aboriginal	2006 Census information not	It is difficult to assume a trend from two measures; so	This indicator is measurable once every five years via the

What is being measured and using what indicator?	Why is it important to measure this?	Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)?	What is the 2006-2007 (current year) result or most recent available data?	What is the trend over time?	Comments / recent actions / report links
engagement of Aboriginal people in Manitoba, as measured by the difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal unemployment rates for individuals age 15 and over.	economy is critical to the future success of Manitoba's economy and contributes to the well-being of Aboriginal people in Manitoba. The difference in unemployment rates provides one indicator of the relative engagement and well-being of Aboriginal people in Manitoba. Our goal is to see this gap decreasing over time.	people age 15 and over had an unemployment rate of 19.0% as compared to the non-Aboriginal unemployment rate of 4.7%. This reflects a difference of 14.3 percentage points.	available until January 2008	far there is a decrease in the unemployment rate gap, which is encouraging. Over time, when additional data becomes available, we may be able to see whether a trend is developing. According to the 1996 Census, the Aboriginal employment rate was 25.5% as compared to the non-Aboriginal unemployment rate of 6.4%. This reflects a difference of 19.1 percentage points. Unemployment rates have decreased in absolute terms for both groups since 1996.	Census. A variety of factors combine to influence unemployment rates. Unemployment rates vary greatly among Aboriginal groups. For example, according to the 2001 Census, the unemployment rate for Métis individuals was 13.2% while the rate for North American Indians was 24.9%. The on-reserve North American Indian population's employment rate was 30.3%. Manitoba's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations have different age structures. For example, the median age of Aboriginal people in 2001 was 23 as opposed to the non-Aboriginal median age of 39. See Figure 2
Well being / educational attainment of Aboriginal people in Manitoba, as measured by the	Educational attainment affects the standard of living and general level of well-being of individuals and families.	According to the 2001 Census 44.0% of Aboriginal people age 15 and over had a high school graduation certificate	2006 Census information not available until January 2008	It is difficult to assume a trend from two measures; so far the gap in educational attainment appears to be decreasing. Over time, when additional	This indicator is measurable once every five years via the Census. A variety of factors combine to influence educational attainment.

What is being measured and using what indicator?	Why is it important to measure this?	Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)?	What is the 2006-2007 (current year) result or most recent available data?	What is the trend over time?	Comments / recent actions / report links
difference between the proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people age 15 and over with a high school graduation certificate or greater.	The difference in educational attainment with a focus on high school completion provides one indicator or the relative well-being of Aboriginal people in Manitoba. Our goal is to see this gap decrease over time.	or greater as compared to 64.0% for non-Aboriginal people. This reflects a difference of 20.0 percentage points.		data becomes available, we may be able to see whether a trend is developing. According to the 1996 Census 38.1% of Aboriginal people age 15 and over had a high school graduation certificate or greater as compared to 60.8% for non-Aboriginal people. This reflects a difference of 22.7 percentage points. In absolute terms, levels of educational attainment have increased for both groups since 1996.	Levels of educational attainment vary greatly among Aboriginal groups. For example, according to the 2001 Census, 52.3% of Métis individuals had a high school graduation certificate or greater, while the rate for North American Indians was 38.1%. The on-reserve rate for the North American Indian population was 30.7% The age category "15 and over" includes a portion of the population still in school. Manitoba's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations have different age structures. For example, the median age of Aboriginal people in 2001 was 23 as opposed to the non-Aboriginal median age of 39. See Figure 3
Progress of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) land transfers as measured by the number of acres transferred by Manitoba to Canada.	Acreage transferred to Canada under TLE indicates a fulfillment of Manitoba's Constitutional obligation to Entitlement First Nations and may lead to increased economic and social	Under existing TLE agreements, Entitlement First Nations may select or purchase a total of 1,256,316 acres of land.	As of March 31, 2007, Manitoba has transferred 295,689 acres (23.5%) of Crown land and/or residual interests in land to Canada.	Number of acres transferred increasing. As issues that impact the transfer of land are addressed, we will see increases in transfers of land for Entitlement First Nations. The amount of land transferred in a given year is	Although a reflection of Manitoba meeting its Constitutional obligations, acreage transferred in a given year reflects work that has occurred over a number of years. It is also a limited measure of its potential impact on the economic benefit of land transfers. For example, a

What is being measured and using what indicator?	Why is it important to measure this?	Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)?	What is the 2006-2007 (current year) result or most recent available data?	What is the trend over time?	Comments / recent actions / report links
	opportunities for Entitlement First Nations as their land base is increased. Ideally, we want to see this total number of acres increasing over time. The number of acres transferred each year will vary due to the influences of the other parties involved in the process. A commitment of 150,000 acres/year for the next four years has been made by Canada. The total transferred in a year will be calculated in August of each year.			dependent on numerous parties and reflects years of effort leading up to transfer.	relatively small parcel of land transferred to reserve status that is close to an urban centre may have much greater impact than a very large parcel in the far north that has been selected for purely cultural or historical reasons by the Entitlement First Nation. In the land transfer process, Manitoba transfers the land to Canada, who then sets the land apart as reserve for the use and benefit of the First Nation. Although Manitoba is involved in the second part of the process, it does not control it. In this measurement, we are reporting the land transferred by Manitoba to Canada.
The water quality in communities that are recognized under The Northern Affairs Act as measured by the number of boil water orders and boil water advisories issued for water treatment plants for which the department holds licenses.	Boil water orders and advisories identify water quality issues that pose a risk to public health and focus on systems that are not meeting the standards for safe drinking water. Ideally, we want to see the number of boil water orders and advisories at zero	Six boil water advisories were issued in 2005-06 of which three were in effect on March 31, 2006.	Two communities were issued water advisories and boil orders in 2006-2007. Both of these were rescinded. At March 31, 2007, three boil water advisories carried over from 2005-2006 remained in effect. These relate to: a water source from a	We began using the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines in 2001. Not enough time has elapsed since to establish any trends. Each boil water order or advisory is related to a specific set of circumstances including conditions at source, plant and operator performance.	To support communities' abilities to maximize their water quality, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has sponsored a Water Operator Certification Program since 2004. In addition, our department supports water plant infrastructure upgrades on a priority basis through our Capital Program. This will enhance communities' capacity to maintain good water quality over time. In 2006-07 the

What is being measured and using what indicator?	Why is it important to measure this?	Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)?	What is the 2006-2007 (current year) result or most recent available data?	What is the trend over time?	Comments / recent actions / report links
This indicator may change with the introduction of provincial drinking water quality standards.	each year.		First Nation which is beyond local control, a community that is unable to recruit a water operator, and a system for which resolution of issues remains under discussion.		department provided $3.1 million to replace and/or upgrade water treatment systems in northern communities. Manitoba currently uses federal Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines as the model for water quality. Provincial water quality legislation is being developed and will become the provincial standard for water quality at which time we will reconsider the indicator. The provincial *Drinking Water Quality Standards Regulation* came into effect February 28, 2007.
The autonomy of communities recognized under The Northern Affairs Act as measured by the number of those communities incorporated.	Incorporation represents the most autonomous and independent status that a community can achieve. Our goal is to see the number of incorporated communities increasing over time.	As of March 31, 2006, two communities out of 50 were incorporated. Incorporation is not a viable option at this time for all of the 50 Northern Affairs communities.	As of March 31, 2007, the number of communities incorporated remained at two.	The first community to incorporate was in 1999. In total, three communities have incorporated, one of which has since transferred to reserve status in 2005-06. Two communities are expected to incorporate in 2007-2008.	The Local Government Development Division actively promotes incorporation for communities that have achieved an advanced level of development. Communities making this transition are supported with additional resources for the first two years after incorporation.

Figure 1: Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal Median Income (Age 15+)

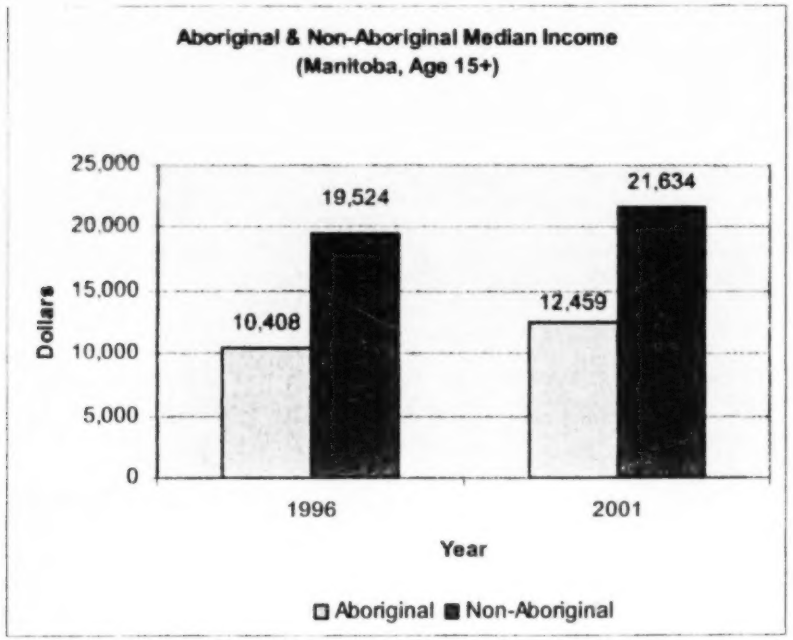


Figure 2: Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal Unemployment Rates (Age 15+)

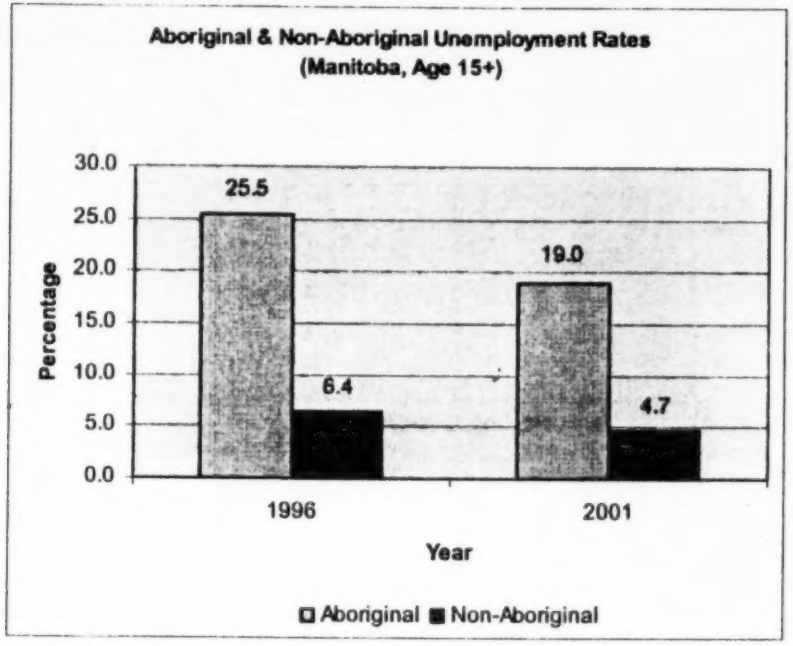


Figure 3: Educational Attainment - Proportion of Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal People Age 15 and Over with a High School Graduation Certificate or Greater